

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Nichole Wells, and I reside in New Haven. I'm a proud parent of 10 year old Sadaqah Kelley and 7 yr old Sulayman Mumin. They are both scholars at Amistad Academy Elementary in New Haven. I decided to speak today at this hearing because I believe ALL of Connecticut's families deserve the right to a quality education, regardless of their zip code. This includes fair funding for ALL Connecticut's public school students - despite the public school they attend.

The right to an excellent education is guaranteed by our state's constitution, and I'm so fortunate that my children are receiving a great education at Amistad Elementary.

As parents, we all want what is best for our children. I want my children to know that college is an option for them. At Amistad, the teachers instill those beliefs daily. It makes me happy every year when my children meet their new teachers and they teach them about their alma maters. My children come home and say "I'm going to Yale" and "I'm going to St. Olaf" and they believe they can achieve it. Amistad is needed in our community.

Today, I'm asking you to stand up for my two children, and ALL public school students in Connecticut and FIX this broken funding formula. Students need to be funded fairly in order for their schools to continue to achieve high results, including Amistad. The proposed formula is truly unjust. How can you fund one student different than another if they have the same needs? To me, it seems obvious. Students should be funded based on their needs - not by the type of school they attend. YOU have the opportunity to make funding right for all students. Why not do it?

Thank you and have a nice evening.